ComSci
Commerce Science & Technology Fellowship Program

Join the 40th Class of the Commerce Science and Technology Fellowship (ComSci) Program

Established in 1964, and later enacted by Congress, the prestigious Commerce Science and Technology Fellowship (ComSci) Program (www.comsci.gov) takes its participants behind the scenes of science and technology policy-making and management in the halls of the Nation's Capitol, at the highest levels of industry and academia, and then into the field.

Open only to career federal employees, including the military, at the GS-13, 14, or 15 (or equivalent) and SES levels, ComSci is a 10-month policy study and leadership program.

Through regular seminars and site visits, ComSci Fellows delve into the "how's, why's, and where's" behind decision-making. Invited speakers include experts from government agencies, the private sector, and academia. When appropriate, regular seminars take the form of site visits and tours of research and industrial facilities in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

The ComSci Program also includes a one-week Congressional orientation, which provides a series of briefings on the legislative process, and a one-week policy study trip, featuring extensive on-site visits to scientific institutions and industrial organizations, highlighted by in-depth discussions with senior-level executives.

Specially designed presentations and projects give the Fellows a portfolio of information and the opportunity to increase and expand their leadership skills, working with, and networking with, peers from agencies throughout the federal government.

Program Options

1. The ComSci Program With Work Assignment (Full-time Program)

In addition to the activities described above, this option offers a 10-month, intensive and challenging work assignment in an executive or legislative branch office (generally in the Washington Metropolitan Area). It is designed to provide participants who choose the full-time program with policy-making and program management experience at the highest executive levels. Guidance and assistance in seeking one's full-time work assignment is provided. Fellowship assignments are structured around the interests, qualifications, and developmental needs of each participant. Work assignments are aligned to each participant's specialty or competence. The 2008-2009 tuition cost for this option is $8,500.

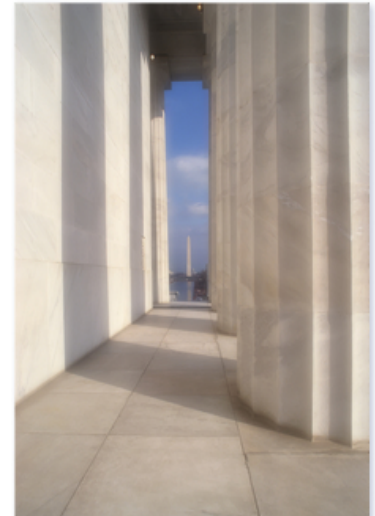### 2. ComSci Program Without Work Assignment (Part-time Program)

This option is a 10-month policy study and leadership program without the work assignment. This option allows individuals to participate in ComSci on a part-time basis. Participants continue to work at their home agencies while attending regularly scheduled seminars and specially scheduled ComSci events. Option 2 is best suited for individuals in the Washington Metropolitan Area or for individuals who are able to commute to Washington, D.C., for one day each week. The 2008-2009 tuition cost for this option is $8,500.

Applicant Nominations

ComSci applicants must be **nominated** for consideration by a designated agency representative and then **apply** for competitive selection by the Program. This ensures agency support of the funding and time commitment for participation in the ComSci Program.

Agencies are encouraged to nominate candidates for the full-time program option.

Dates and Deadlines for the 2008-2009 Program

To apply for the 40th class of the ComSci Program, please visit www.usajobs.opm.gov during the open application period. Vacancy Number: ComSci-2008-0001 or Keyword search on: ComSci.

- The ComSci application period opens on Wednesday, February 13, 2008.
- The ComSci application period closes on Wednesday, April 9, 2008.
- Interviews generally will be held during the second week in May.
- Successful candidates are notified, and ComSci Fellowship announcements are made, during the last week in June.
- The ComSci Fellowship Program begins in mid-September.
- Work assignments usually begin in late September and end in June. However, to coincide with the legislative calendar, which begins in January, the Capitol Hill work assignment generally will begin in January and end in October.
- The ComSci Fellowship Program ends with graduation on the fourth Thursday in June. (Fellows in Capitol Hill work assignments will continue the assignment portion of the Program until October.)

Hosting a ComSci Fellow

The ComSci Program also seeks challenging assignments for the incoming Fellows who begin their program in September of each year. If your agency is interested in hosting a ComSci Fellow, please contact the ComSci Program at 301-975-8772 or comsci@nist.gov. ComSci Fellows are placed in assignments without cost to the host office or agency (www.comsci.gov/hosting.html).

To learn more, please visit www.comsci.gov, or call 301-975-8772.

NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology

ComSci is a government-wide program managed by NIST, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.